

Department of Education's Charter School Committee Report

Green Run Collegiate Virginia Beach, Virginia

Public Charter School Application

February 2013

Criteria Checklist

Required Application Components	Does the Response Meet the	Comments
	Criterion?	
Cover Page All requested information has been provided and the authorized official has signed and dated the cover page.	⊠Yes □ No	
Applicant Information All applicant information has been provided.	⊠Yes □ No	
I. Executive Summary: The executive summary provides an overview of the proposed charter school and must include the need for the public charter school and its goals and objectives.	⊠Yes □ No	
		on Components
II. Mission Statement: The mission statement of the public charter school is consistent with the principles of the Standards of Quality (SOQ). The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	
1. A description of the public charter school's mission and how it is consistent with the principles of the Virginia SOQ. (Section 22.1-253.13:1, Code of Virginia)	⊠Yes □ No	
2. A description of any specialized area of academic concentration.	⊠Yes □ No	
3. Information about the public charter school's anticipated student population consistent with Section 22.1-212.6 , of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> .	⊠Yes □ No	
III. Goals and Educational Objectives: The goals and educational objectives to be achieved by the public charter school are stated, and meet or exceed the Standards of Learning. The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	Comments to strengthen the application are noted below.
1. A description of the performance-based goals.	⊠Yes □ No	The application would be strengthened with additional information on the standards for health education which includes driver education.

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2. A description of the related measurable educational objectives to be achieved by the public charter school. (Section 22.1-253.13:1.B, <i>Code of Virginia</i>)	⊠Yes □ No	The application would be strengthened with additional information on the standards for health education which includes driver education. An additional suggestion would be to consider more specific goals related to International Baccalaureate (IB) enrollment or diploma completion since the school is IB focused. A more detailed description of the mobility rate goal should be explained and how it would be measured.
 IV. Evidence of Support: Evidence that an adequate number of parents, teachers, pupils, or any combination thereof, supports the formation of a public charter school is provided. The following elements are addressed: 1. Information and materials indicating how parents, 	⊠Yes □ No	Comments to strengthen the application are noted below.
the community, and other stakeholders were involved in supporting the application for the public charter school.	□ No	
2. Tangible evidence of support for the public charter school from parents, teachers, students, and residents, or any combination thereof, including but not limited to information regarding the number of persons and organizations involved in the process and petitions related to the establishment of the charter school.	⊠Yes □ No	The application would be strengthened by more tangible support from parents in the community; it appears that most support is from current Virginia Beach City Public School (VBCPS) employees.
3. A description of how parental involvement will be used to support the educational needs of the students, the school's mission and philosophy, and its educational focus.	⊠Yes □ No	
V. Statement of Need: A statement describing the need for a public charter school in a school division or relevant school divisions in the case of a regional public charter school, or in a geographic area within a school division or relevant school divisions, is provided. The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	The data supporting the need for a charter school include lower graduation rates, advanced studies diplomas, and Advanced Placement (AP) scores; however, not all data presented demonstrate a gap in these areas. Also, the ways in which the flexibilities afforded to a charter school correlate to greater student achievement for the target population should be clarified.
A statement of the need for a public charter school that describes the targeted school population to be served and the reasons for locating the school within a particular school division.	⊠Yes □ No	

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2. An explanation of why the public charter school is being formed. (Is the school being formed at the request of parents or community organizations? How was the need determined? What data were examined as part of the needs assessment? Briefly describe the need and include a summary of the quantitative data.)	□Yes ⊠ No	The applicant provides some data to suggest that students in the Green Run community, particularly black males, may need additional support; however, the data overall are not compelling. This section does not address sufficiently community or parent support for the formation of the school.
3. An explanation of why a public charter school is the appropriate vehicle to address the identified need.	⊠Yes □ No	The applicant states that funding, scheduling, and curricular and other flexibility offered to charter schools would allow the school to better address the achievement gap of the community it proposes to serve, but it is unclear from the narrative how those flexibilities would raise the achievement of the population the school proposed to serve.
VI. Educational Program: A description of the public charter school's educational program is provided. The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	Comments to strengthen the application are noted below.
A synopsis of the public charter school's educational program.	⊠Yes □ No	 Clarification on the following points would make the application stronger: Status of theatre arts and dance arts offerings; Sufficient funding to provide a visual arts and music teacher; and Justification of number of teachers after year one to support student course choice for dance arts, music, theatre arts, and visual arts. Clarify the offerings for Career and Technical Education (CTE). The application needs curriculum descriptions for Information Technology; Career Connections (exploratory) and Marketing; and Technology Education. Clarify if CTE International Baccalaureate (IB) courses will be offered.
2. A description of the pupil performance standards and curriculum, which must meet or exceed any applicable Virginia SOQ. (Sections 22.1-253.13:1 through 22.1-253.13:9, Code of Virginia)	⊠Yes □ No	
3. A description of how the Virginia SOL and the corresponding SOL Curriculum Framework will be used as the foundation for curricula to be implemented for each grade or course in the public charter school. Include within the description how the goals and objectives of the curricula will meet or exceed the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), address student performance standards, relate to state and federal	⊠Yes □ No	To strengthen the application, details should be included about how the Science SOL Curriculum Framework will be used as a foundation for curricula; evidence should be presented of how gifted students' academic growth will be measured using the various curriculum components; and additional Health Education SOL information should be addressed.

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	assessment standards, and include measurable student outcomes (See http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml on the Department's Web site for more information about the SOL).		
4.	A description of any assessments to be used to measure pupil progress towards achievement of the school's pupil performance standards, in addition to the SOL assessments prescribed by Section 22.1-253.13:3, in the <i>Code of Virginia</i> .	⊠Yes □ No	
5.	A description of the public charter school assessment plan to obtain student performance data, which includes how the data will be used to monitor and improve achievement and how program effectiveness, will be measured over a specified period of time. Also, provide benchmark data on how student achievement will be measured and how these data will be established and documented in the first year of operation and how the data will be measured over each year of the term of the charter as approved by the local school board. The benchmark data should address targets for student improvement to be met in each year.	⊠Yes □ No	The application indicates the school will collaborate with the division to establish appropriate benchmarks for student achievement and that the benchmarks will align with school division goals, but additional details are needed regarding how the benchmarks will be established and what specific data will be analyzed. The application indicates "SMART" (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely) goals will be established and that mentors, parents, and students will monitor and measure progress toward short and long term goals, but specific details should be provided regarding how progress will be measured. The application stated student performance on PSAT, SAT, ACT, and College and Work Readiness Assessment (CWRA) would be documented in each student's Personal Learning Plan and judged against local, state, and national trends, but specific targets should be included.
6.	The timeline for achievement of pupil performance standards, in accordance with the Virginia SOL.	⊠Yes □ No	
7.	actions needed in the event that pupil performance at the public charter school falls below the standards outlined in the Virginia Board of Education's <u>Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia</u> , (8 VAC 20-131-310).	⊠Yes □ No	This description would be strengthened by including: 1) a statement that the school will examine teaching strategies, curriculum alignment, level of rigor, pacing, overall teacher effectiveness; 2) information regarding how research-based interventions would be used with students who were unable to perform at the proficiency level on the Virginia SOL assessments; and 3) reference to a school improvement planning process to address academic deficiencies.
8.	Information regarding the minimum and maximum enrollment per grade as well as class size and structure for each grade served by the public charter school.	⊠Yes □ No	

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9. Information regarding the proposed calendar and daily schedule, including any plans to open prior to Labor Day and how and when a waiver to open early will be submitted by the local school board to the Virginia Board of Education. (Section 22.1-79.1, Code of Virginia)	Criterion? ⊠Yes □ No	
10. A description of plans for identifying and serving: a) students with disabilities; b) English Language Learners (ELLs); c) academically atrisk students; and d) gifted and talented students. Such plans must indicate the extent of the involvement of the local school board in providing such services and must comply with state and federal laws and regulations.	□Yes ⊠ No	Additional details are needed to support a program of services for gifted students regarding "appropriate and differentiated curriculum," which would require some modifications to the currently selected curriculum. Additional local plan requirements, such as student growth measures, will need to be determined based on "appropriate and differentiated curriculum" outcomes. The applicant has provided information related to how the school will provide assistance to academically at-risk students; however, it is not stated whether the school will pursue Title I funding. The applicant needs to provide a more comprehensive plan of how school personnel will work with the division to comply with Title III requirements in the following categories: screening, identification, ESL instruction, assessment, parental notification, document translation, and professional development. In referring to the application on pages 71-75, the following would strengthen the application: • reference to the local school board's involvement in identifying students with disabilities • reference to Virginia special education regulations which have additional requirements beyond the federal IDEA mandate. Several include: -how special education policies and procedures at the charter school will comport with those of all VBCPS teachers -demonstrating a clear understanding of IEP requirements -addressing disability categories that are omitted (blind/vision impairment, hearing impairment, deaf, deaf-blind, autism, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, traumatic brain injury, multiple disabilities)
11. A description of the learning environment and scientifically-based research instructional strategies to be used at the public charter school to ensure student achievement.	⊠Yes □ No	Although scientifically based research strategies are mentioned, more detail would strengthen this component. The remedial section plan could be strengthened by specifying the strategies or programs that will be used for providing interventions.
12. If the public charter school plans to utilize virtual learning in its educational program, identify the virtual learning source, describe how virtual	⊠Yes □ No	

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learning will be used and estimate how many students may participate.		
13. A general description of any alternative accreditation plans, in accordance with the Virginia Board of Education's <u>Regulations</u> <u>Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia</u> (8 VAC 20-131-280), that the public charter school would request the local school board to submit to the Virginia Board of Education for approval.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☑ Not Applicable	
14. A general description of any alternative accreditation plan for serving students with disabilities, in accordance with the Virginia Board of Education's Regulations Governing Special Education Programs For Children With Disabilities in Virginia (8 VAC 20-80-40) that the public charter school would request the local school board to submit to the Virginia Board of Education for approval.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☑ Not Applicable	
		cal Components
VII. Enrollment Process: A description of the lottery process consistent with all federal and state laws and regulations and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination that are applicable to public schools and with any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the school division or, in the case of a regional public charter school, in effect for any of the relevant school divisions is provided. (Section 22.1-212.6, Code of Virginia). The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	Comments to strengthen the application are noted below.
A description of the lottery process to be used to determine the public charter school enrollment.	⊠Yes □ No	The application should address the process for military students who may not yet live in the division or state and how they can apply for the school after the deadline. Investigate the legality of not admitting students previously expelled from school.
A lottery process shall also be developed for the establishment of a waiting list for such students for whom space is unavailable.	⊠Yes □ No	
3. A description of a tailored admission policy that meets the specific mission or focus of the public charter school, if applicable.	☐ Yes☐ No☐ No Applicable	

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4. A timeline for when the lottery process will begin for the first academic year of enrollment and when parents will be notified of the outcome of the lottery process.	⊠Yes □ No	
5. A description of any enrollment-related policies and procedures that address special situations, such as the enrollment of siblings and children of faculty and founders and the enrollment of nonresident students, if applicable.	⊠Yes □ No	
6. An explanation of how the applicant will ensure that, consistent with the public charter school's mission and purpose, community outreach has been undertaken so that special populations are aware of the formation of the public charter school and that enrollment is open to all students residing in the school division where the public charter school is located or in school divisions participating in a regional charter school.	⊠Yes □ No	Provide additional description about the outreach to special populations, such as achievement gap subgroups, military connected students, etc.
7. A description of how the transfer of students to and from the public charter school will be accomplished.	⊠Yes □ No	
8. A description of how students seeking enrollment after the school year begins will be accommodated.	⊠Yes □ No	
VIII. Displacement: A description of the plan for the displacement of pupils, teachers, and other employees who will not attend or be employed in the public charter school, in instances of the conversion of an existing public school to a public charter school, and for the placement of public charter school pupils, teachers, and employees upon termination or revocation of the charter is provided. The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	

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	Criterion?	
1. Identification of a member of the school's leadership team who will serve as a single point of contact for all activities that may need to take place in order for the school to close, including but not limited to the transfer of students to another school, the management of student records, and the settlement of financial obligations.	⊠Yes □ No	
 A notification process to parents/guardians of students attending the school and teachers and administrators of the closure date. 	⊠Yes □ No	
3. A notification process to parents/guardians of students attending the public charter school of alternative public school placements within a set time period from the date that the closure is announced.	⊠Yes □ No	
4. Provisions for ensuring that student records are provided to the parent/guardian or another school identified by the parent or guardian within a set time period. If the student transfers to another school division, provisions for the transfer of the student's record to the school division to which the student transfers shall be made upon the request of that school division. (Section 22.1-289, Code of Virginia).	⊠Yes □ No	
5. Notification to the local school board of a list of all students in the school and the names of the schools to which these students will transfer.	⊠Yes □ No	
6. A placement plan for school employees that details the level of assistance to be provided within a set period of time from the date of closure. For teachers and administrators, the level of assistance should address finding employment within the school division where the public charter school is located or other public school divisions.	⊠Yes □ No	

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7. A closeout plan related to financial obligations and audits, the termination of contracts and leases, and the sale and disposition of assets within a set period of time from the date of closure. The plan shall include the disposition of the schools' records and financial accounts upon closure.	⊠Yes □ No	
IX. Transportation: A description of how the public charter school plans to meet the transportation needs of its pupils is provided. The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	
1. A description of how the transportation of students will be provided: a) by the local school division; b) by the public charter school; c) by the parent(s); or d) through a combination of these options.	⊠Yes □ No	
2. If transportation services will be provided by the public charter school, explain whether the school will contract for transportation with the local education agency or with another entity or have its own means of transportation and indicate whether transportation will be provided to all students attending the school.	⊠Yes □ No	
3. A description of transportation services for students with disabilities in compliance with Section 22.1-221 of the Code of Virginia and the Board's Regulations Governing Special Education Programs For Children With Disabilities in Virginia.	⊠Yes □ No	
X. Residential Charter Schools: If the application is for a residential charter school for atrisk students, the following elements must be addressed:	☐Yes ☐ No ☑ Not Applicable	

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 A description of the residential program to include: a) the educational program; b) a facilities description to include grounds, dormitories, and staffing; c) a program for parental education and involvement; d) a description of after-care initiatives; e) the funding the residential facility and other services provided; f) any counseling and other social services to be provided and their coordination with current state and local initiatives; and g) a description of enrichment activities available to students. 		
2. A description of how the facility will be maintained including, but not limited to: a) janitorial and regular maintenance services and b) security services to ensure the safety of students and staff.		
	Busine	ss Components
XI. Economic Soundness: Evidence that the plan for the public charter school is economically sound for both the public charter school and the school division is provided. The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	Comments to strengthen the application are noted below.
A description of the public charter school's financial plan, including financial controls and audit requirements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.	⊠Yes □ No	
 A start-up and three-year budgets with clearly stated assumptions and information regarding projected revenues and expenditures. 	⊠Yes □ No	Noted comments for clarification include: fringe benefit expenses in start-up year appear high relative to salary expense; estimated expenses for personnel may need to assume salary increases and/or fringe benefit rate increases over years two to five; and magnitude of budget balances in years two to five may not be realistic. Questions to be addressed: Are school food costs and library services provided in-kind by the division? Are computer network costs sufficiently accounted?
 A start-up and three-year cash flow projections with clearly stated assumptions and indications of short- and long-term sources of revenue. 	⊠Yes □ No	Additional detail should be provided in the application regarding obligation to repay the "Secured VBCPS Loan." Cash flow data only past year one should be addressed in later years.

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4. A description of anticipated fundraising contributions, if applicable.	Yes No	Eligibility to seek approval as a scholarship foundation under the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits Program in the context of a public charter school needs to be confirmed.
5. A description of the funding agreement that the public charter school intends to have with the local education agency, including information regarding anticipated local, state, and federal per-pupil-amounts to be received and any information pertaining to the maintenance of facilities. In accordance with Section 22.1-212.14 of the Code of Virginia, the per pupil funding provided to the charter school, shall be negotiated in the charter agreement and shall be commensurate with the average school-based costs of educating the students in the existing schools in the division or divisions unless the cost of operating the charter school is less than that average school-based cost. To the extent discussions have been held with the school division, please describe the outcome of those discussions. If there have been no discussions to date, please indicate the reason.	⊠Yes □ No	
XII. Management and Operation: A description of the management and operation of the public charter school, including the nature and extent of parental, professional educator, and community involvement in the management and operation of the public charter school is provided. (Section 22.1-212.7, Code of Virginia) The following elements are addressed: 1. A description of any discussion, to date, with the	⊠Yes □ No	Comments to strengthen the application are noted below.
 A description of any discussion, to date, with the local public system or local school board where the charter school will be located regarding the management and operations of the public charter school. A description of the functions, roles, and duties of the management committee as defined in Section 22.1-212.6 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> in the operation and oversight of the public charter 	No Yes No No No	
school and its proposed constitution and bylaws.		

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 An explanation of how support services will be provided. These services, include, but are not limited to: 1) food services; 2) school health services; 3) custodial services; 4) extracurricular activities; and 5) security services. An explanation of any partnerships or contractual relationships (education management organization, food services, school health services, custodial services, security services, etc.) central to the school's operations or mission, including information regarding the relationship of all contractors to the governing board of the public charter school, and information regarding how contractors and the employees of the contractors having direct contact with students will comply with the provisions of Section 22.1-296.1, of the Code of Virginia. 	⊠Yes □ No Syes □ No	It is recommended that language for interscholastic sports align with Virginia High School League regulations governing year-round schools. The applicant needs to consult with division's school nutrition department to provide additional details on the method for providing breakfast and lunch to students and reflecting the costs associated with this contracted service. The application should provide additional detail on the method for providing meals to students during the school day. Additional details are necessary in order to determine if the school can participate in USDA national school lunch and school breakfast programs through contracted services with VBCPS.
5. A detailed start-up plan, identifying tasks, timelines, and responsible individuals.	⊠Yes □ No	Please note that the Board of Education will take final action at its April 2013 meeting which would delay approval from VBCPS.
6. A proposed organization chart that clearly presents the school's organizational structure, including the lines of authority and reporting between the management committee, staff, any related bodies(such as parent organizations, the school division and external organizations) that will play a role in managing the school.	⊠Yes □ No	
7. Plans for recruiting school leadership and staff.	⊠Yes □ No	To strengthen the application, provide more details on the role of the principal in the process of recruiting and hiring teachers.

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XIII. Employment Terms and Conditions: An explanation of the relationship that will exist between the proposed public charter school and its employees, including evidence that the terms and conditions of employment have been addressed with affected employees is provided. (Sections 22.1-212.13, 22.1-296.1 and 22.1-296.2, Code of Virginia) The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	Comments to strengthen the application are noted below.
 A plan that addresses the qualifications of teachers and administrators at the public charter school, including compliance with state law and regulation regarding Virginia Board of Education licensing endorsements. 	⊠Yes □ No	The plan should address more clearly the following sections of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> , Section 22.1-296.1 or Section 22.1-296.2. Fingerprinting and conducting a child protective service check needs to be addressed. Qualifications for the criteria for teacher selection need to include the criteria of the teacher holding a valid Virginia license with appropriate endorsement instead of stating that the teacher will be "state certified." The
		principal also needs to hold a valid Virginia teacher license with endorsement in administration and supervision. It is not clear that the "classroom teacher/mentor" will hold a valid Virginia license with appropriate endorsements. Instructional personnel must hold a valid license with appropriate endorsements. It is unclear if the role of the "operations manager" will include responsibilities of an instructional nature.
2. A plan to provide high-quality professional development plans. (Section 22.1-253.13.5, <i>Code of Virginia</i>)	⊠Yes □ No	
Provisions for the evaluation of staff at regular intervals and in accordance with state law and regulation.	⊠Yes □ No	
4. Provisions for a human resource policy for the public charter school that is consistent with state and federal law.	⊠Yes □ No	
Notification to all school employees of the terms and conditions of employment.	⊠Yes □ No	
6. A staffing chart for the school's first year and a staffing plan for the term of the contract.	⊠Yes □ No	Clarify if teachers will be teaching on a full-time contract with VBCPS or on a part-time contract. (Please note that teachers with a provisional license are required to obtain one year of successful full-time teaching experience.) Chart should include a nurse or librarian as referenced in another section.
XIV. Liability and Insurance: A description of the agreement between the parties regarding their respective legal liability and applicable insurance coverage is provided. (Section 22.1-212.16, Code of Virginia) The following elements are addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	

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1. The types of insurance for the public charter school, its property, its employees, the charter school management committee, and the board and the levels of coverage sought. Types of insurance include, but are not limited to: a) general liability; b) health; and c) property.	⊠Yes □ No	
A justification for each type of insurance coverage sought.	⊠Yes □ No	
 A description of any plans of the public charter school to provide indemnity for the local school division. 	⊠Yes □ No	
XV. Disclosures: Disclose ownership or financial interest in the public charter school by the charter applicant and the governing body, administrators, and other personnel of the proposed public charter school, and require that the applicant and the governing body, administrators, and other personnel of the public charter school shall have a continuing duty to disclose such interest during the term of any charter. The following elements must be addressed:	⊠Yes □ No	
 A description of how the applicant and members of the management committee will disclose any ownership or financial interest. 	⊠Yes □ No	
2. Information regarding the frequency by which such disclosures will be made (Section 2.2-3114, <i>Code of Virginia</i>).	⊠Yes □ No	
 A description of ownership or financial interest of the applicant and/or members of the management committee in the proposed charter school. This includes any relationships that parties may have with vendors performing services at the school. 	⊠Yes □ No	
Assurances The certification statement has been signed.	⊠Yes □ No	